

MOHAVE COUNTY MINER

AND OUR MINERAL WEALTH

OFFICIAL PAPER OF MOHAVE COUNTY

Vol. XXXVII.

Kingman, Arizona, Saturday, December 7, 1918

No. 6.

JUDGE DECIDES WILL PRESENTED IS FORGERY

Late last Saturday afternoon, Judge Thorne hearing the Miller will case, pronounced the holographic will submitted in behalf of Mrs. Minnie Wilson, a forgery. After the Court had declined to give the attorneys for the holographic will a postponement of the case and had stated that investigation of the will would be continued, witnesses were again called in for more evidence.

C. J. Walters was again put on the stand and he testified that the name Minnie Wilson appearing on the will produced by her attorneys, was in the same handwriting as certain documents which had been pronounced as written by Mrs. Wilson.

C. W. Lynch testified that he was with Mr. Miller when he returned from California and that he had made arrangements for him to be taken care of at the county hospital. He testified that Mr. Miller had told him that he wanted to get rid of Mrs. Wilson, and that he was afraid of her.

Joe Gideon testified that he had been present on different occasions with Asa Harris and Ross Blakely when Mr. Miller had said that he was afraid of Mrs. Wilson and that he wanted to get rid of her.

Lloyd Milwain who was at the sanitarium at the same time as Mr. Miller, testified that Mr. Worster was not in the tent occupied by Mr. Miller on the afternoon that Worster had stated that Mr. Miller had called him in to help him write the will in question.

At five o'clock Saturday afternoon, Judge Thorne pronounced the will a forged instrument.

After court adjourned, H. H. Watkins filed a petition for the probate of the lost will which was made by Miller about July 20, 1917. In this petition he claimed that this will had never been revoked.

It had been testified previously that Mr. Miller had stated the day before he died that he believed Mrs. Wilson had taken this will away.

At one o'clock of the same day and before the court had given a decision in the case another petition had been filed by C. R. Van Marter in behalf of Mrs. Minnie Wilson for the probate of a new will in the nature of a letter dated the same date as the holographic will. It reads as follows:

Colfax, Cal., Nov. 20, 1917.
Dear Miss Wilson I leave you all my Money and Mining Property not to be fine close or foolishness but to fix up your satarin to help poor people who cant pay you. Know how we was going to fix it up if I got well so if I die you fix it just that way with the estat I give you and you keep Loyd until he get well dont charge him nothing give him My watch bury me at Colfax Keep My grave nice all the time.

George Miller.

Thursday this week C. R. Van Marter filed a notice of contract of the petition of H. H. Watkins.
Another petition had also been filed late in November by Attorney Wallace of Oatman claiming to be a creditor and asking for general administration. He asks that H. E. Lang be appointed administrator. The hearing of this petition has been postponed pending the determination of the validity of the lost will.
The case has been set for December 23.

Much interest is being shown in this case inasmuch as all who knew Mr. Miller firmly believe that it was his intention to leave his property to the schools of Mohave county, and are more than ever convinced that somebody is trying to get away with something.

AGED OF FRANCE WELCOME THEIR LIBERATORS



The aged inhabitants of a French town which the Germans had fled welcoming the first soldiers. The old woman at the left though bed ridden insisted upon being taken to the street to welcome the Tommies.

True Loyalty of Women of This City Shown

The work of the women of Kingman during the last few weeks serving at the hospital as nurses, in the kitchen, at the spraying station and in every other needed place, will not be forgotten. In most cases the work was entirely new to them and in practically all cases it was done in addition to their work at home.

Kingman sent out the call for women to help in these arduous stages of the disease and they responded nobly to the call.

Women of Kingman—the citizens of Kingman as well as those stricken, thank you.

OSTER GOES EAST

Charles Oster, a well known New York broker, who has been looking into mining property in this county, departed to his home a few days ago. He expects to return to Kingman after the first of the year and may take up the financing of several properties.

Mohave County Should Be Investigated By The Government

In line with all that the Miner has written of the plans for placing hundreds of thousands of acres of tillable lands in the possession of returned soldiers, President Wilson, in his address to the congress last Monday, made use of the following language:

"I particularly direct your attention to the very practical plans which the secretary of the interior has developed in his annual report and before your committees for the reclamation of arid, swamp and cut-over lands which might, if the states were willing and able to cooperate, redeem some 300,000,000 acres of land for cultivation. There are said to be fifteen or twenty million acres of land in the west, at present arid, for whose reclamation water is available, if properly conserved. There are about two hundred and thirty million acres

from which the forests have been cut, but which never yet have been cleared for the plow and which lie waste and desolate. These lie all over the union. And there are nearly eighty million acres of land that lie under swamps or are subject to periodical overflow or too wet for anything but grazing, which it is perfectly feasible to drain and protect and redeem. The congress can at once direct thousands of the returning soldiers to the reclamation of the arid lands which has already undertaken, if it will but enlarge the plans and the appropriations which it has entrusted to the department of the interior. It is possible in dealing with our unused lands to effect a great rural and agricultural development which will afford the best sort of opportunity to men who want to help themselves; and the secretary of the interior has thought the possible methods out in a way which is worthy of your most friendly attention."

All of the west is now taking active interest in the matter of reclaiming lands and putting them within the reach of the million of men who may want to settle down and make farm homes for themselves. Arizona is the one great country that has the greatest bodies of land that may be reclaimed and which will return more money on the investment than any other part of the United States, because of the fact that few sections are unable to raise more than one crop a year. Mohave county has the largest body of land that may be brought under cultivation and which would yield from two to four or five crops of farm products per year. We have the most ideal climate in the world, when taken all the year around, and we have the richest lands on earth. All that is necessary is to develop the power from the Colorado river, in the Grand Canyon, with which to bring the waters of that wonderful stream onto the lands to make them more

productive.

Oatman has had no new cases the past week, though a chloride was brought in from the Emerald Isle this week.

Man. Two or three other cases are in a serious condition and the others seem to be getting along nicely.

Thursday night three nurses were sent from Kingman, Miss Deming, L. W. Johnson and Charles Whitfield. Doctors White and Todd are making the territory as often as necessary and with the assistance of the nurses mentioned from Kingman the situation is being pretty well taken care of.

The Sandy has also suffered the past week, there being about 17 cases down there now. The Banegas baby died Thursday morning. The rest of the cases there are getting along in good shape.

Yucca is suffering the most at the present time, there being about 39 cases down there out of probably 58 people.

There were two deaths at Yucca this week. Isaac Piper and Bert Hill-

United States Aviators Visit This City--Mapping Air Routes

Mapping the country and locating the air lanes across the desert as they flew five planes from March Field, Riverside, Calif., reached Needles last Monday morning and were expected to pass over Kingman Monday afternoon. Owing to failure to obtain proper gravity of gas the planes had to await the arrival of a supply from headquarters. Thursday three of the planes reached Kingman at an elevation of 6500 feet and reached Peach Springs 54 minutes after taking the air at Needles. The air distance between Needles and Peach Springs is over 85 miles. After looking out for a landing place at Peach Springs, Major Bartholf returned to Kingman. The landing was made two miles north of Kingman, near Mountain view cemetery, where the three planes remained until yesterday morning.

The trip across the desert was most satisfactory, from the aviators' point of view, air conditions being excellent and the trip was without accident. Hundreds of Kingman people visited the aviation field during Thursday and were courteously received by the

birdmen. To some of our people this was the first sight of an aeroplane.

Major Bartholf, Major Ernest Clark and Cadet L. E. Bishop drove the planes. Major Bartholf stated that the field near Kingman was the first real landing place they had found since leaving March Field, and it is probable that this will be used hereafter for future trips across country. He also stated that owing to the character of his planes he was unable to go farther east than Peach Springs, the climbing abilities of the machines being limited. Later other planes will come in from the east over the mountain and map that end of the route.

The aviators took the air yesterday morning a few minutes after six o'clock and expect to reach the air-drome before noon.

The mapping of the air lanes across this country indicates that Kingman and the other towns along the Santa Fe will soon have a mail route. At only one point will a height above 6000 feet have to be reached, while on the other hand there will be found hundreds of good landing places where repairs, oils, gas and aid may be had.

VICTORY BOYS AND GIRLS DOING THEIR BIT FOR UNITED WAR WORK FUND

This is the week that the Victory Boys and Girls are to make their first payments on their pledges in the "Earn and Give" Division of the United War Work Campaign. Some have paid all, some a part, and it is interesting to hear the stories of how the money was earned. One little girl washed her daddy's overalls, another sold one of her chickens, another ironed. It is certain that they are really earning the money, and by hard work. The Kingman boys & girls did splendidly in this Victory Boy and Girl Campaign.

STOLEN AUTOMOBILE FOUND BY SHERIFF

A practically new Kissel Car stolen at Phoenix last week, was found about five miles from Kingman this week. The car was first noticed a week ago Friday night by some boys out hunting but it was not reported to the Sheriff's office until Wednesday of this week.

There had not been much damage done to the machine excepting a broken front wheel which was probably the cause for abandonment. The machine had probably arrived there in the night time as the lights were left on when the thieves deserted it. No trace of the automobile thieves has yet been found.

HERE FOR WINTER

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hudspeth returned to Kingman last week from Seligman where they have been since late spring.

The will live at their home in Kingman for the winter.

RED CROSS XMAS ROLL CALL TO BE STARTED 16TH

The coming Red Cross Christmas Roll Call Campaign which will be conducted during the week from December 16 to 23 will be the most intensive campaign ever undertaken by the American Red Cross. So great is the faith of the officers for the Red Cross in the universality of the Red Cross spirit that their aim is Universal Membership. In addition to their contributions to the War Funds, the American people want to express their moral and spiritual support of the armies of freedom in the form of Red Cross Membership.

As the peak of Red Cross achievement will probably be reached in 1919 it would truly be a Christmas gift of the first magnitude to the nation and to the world is the whole people of rolled in the Red Cross during the coming Yuletide season. That is the aim and objective of the forthcoming Red Cross Christmas Roll Call.

C. M. Leonard, Chairman of the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call for Mohave County, is organizing a corps of workers throughout the county and elaborate plans are being laid to reach every adult in Mohave county. The names of the workers will be announced in the next issue of this paper and an outline of the plan of campaign will be published so that every inhabitant may know what is expected and be ready to respond to the call when solicited.

KILLED IN THE RED LION MINE MONDAY

Picking into a missed hole caused the death of Joseph C. Givens and the injury of Peter Cunningham, at the Red Lion mine, Oatman, last Monday morning. The men had gone to work and were picking up the broken ground when the unburned powder picked into, causing a terrific explosion. Givens was instantly killed and Cunningham was severely injured by flying rock.

Givens had been in Oatman about five months, although the past fifteen years had been spent in this state. He is said to have come from Colorado and leaves a wife. Cunningham will be out of the hospital shortly.

MINERS ARE LOYAL TO UNITED STATES

One of the neatest donations, that has come to our knowledge of the just recently passed United War Work Drive, is that of the boys working for the Walnut Creek Mining and Milling company for Contractor Joe Onetto.

The men, six in number, each gave the value of a shift's work and this sum totalled \$50. A number of these men were unaturalized Italians and when asked if they would go to war for their country, said no that they had no more use for the old country, but for Uncle Sam, they would not fight, but would give all they had. This bit of sentiment from an unexpected source is truly wonderful.

Mrs. Leroy Ladd has been appointed to the position of chairman of the commission of state institutions, the position held by her husband at the time of his death. She is a bright woman and is capable of filling the office as well as any of the men who have been mentioned for that position.

Judge J.R. Russell Passed To Great Beyond--Ariz. Pioneer

Another of the pioneers of Mohave county passed over the divide, and another name has been added to the tablet of men who have blazed civilization's trail.

J. R. Russell died at his residence in Kingman last Wednesday morning, after a lingering illness, death being due to paralysis.

James R. Russell was born in Baltimore, Md., 68 years ago. When a young fellow he entered a Pennsylvania school and shortly thereafter the civil war broke out and he entered the Union army, serving until the close of that struggle. After leaving the army he came west and has been identified with many of the old mining camps of Idaho and Nevada, coming to Mohave county from Hawthorne in 1882. At first he lived in Hackberry, but after the closing down

KINGMAN FIBER PLAN PRODUCING ON FULL SCALE

Kingman now has in full operation a plant for the manufacture of fiber from the leaves of the Spanish bayonet, and other plants of that character. The plant was erected at a cost of approximately \$30,000 by the Industrial Finance company. This company came here with a plan for the decortating of the leaves of the yucca, with a process that was tried out and found to be a success. It is here to stay, as the profits from fiber are high and the possibilities of the bi-products are great.

Kingman people realize the importance of this plant, and the fact that it is now giving employment to many people at a good wage.

It is our infant industry, but we expect it to grow to large proportions, as there is enough of the fiber material within a radius of 20 miles of Kingman to keep the present plant in operation for many years. The company expects to add largely to the plant within the next six months, and also to experiment with the use of the cellulose and food products that the plant contains aside from the fiber.

We rather believe that other cactus will soon be manufactured into valuable products, especially in the making of veneer and other articles useful in manufactures. So important is the plant to Kingman and the surrounding country that we believe that our people should give it and the engaged in the project every encouragement.

Supt. Stegall informs us that the payroll of the plant is \$500 weekly and this will be doubled within the next few weeks. All this money is distributed in Kingman and goes directly into the business life of the town. But this feature of the industry is of minor importance. The one outstanding feature is that a success is being made of a formerly useless product of the plains of the southwest, and that from this beginning a large industry is sure to be the outgrowth.

RED CROSS CHAPTER ELECTS DIRECTORS

The annual meeting of the Mohave County Chapter of the American Red Cross was held last Tuesday evening at the court house and the board of directors for the coming year was elected as follows:

Mrs. S. T. Elliot, C. J. Walters, Rev. Thos. H. Dodd, Mrs. Allen Ware, Carl G. Krook, Mrs. C. A. Warren, Dr. T. R. White, W. L. Linville, Mrs. J. H. Conway, Father Hootsman, Mrs. Thos. DeVine, I. M. George, Mrs. H. H. Watkins, Mrs. R. A. Lassell and H. H. Watkins.

The following afternoon at a meeting of the newly elected board, C. J. Walters was reelected chairman, Mrs. Thos. DeVine, vice-chairman, Mrs. H. H. Watkins, secretary and H. H. Watkins treasurer. Rev. Thos. Dodd, Mrs. C. A. Warren and Dr. T. R. White were appointed by the chairman to act in conjunction with the officers as the executive committee.

At this meeting the chairman also appointed chairman for the different committees as follows: Civilian Relief, Thos. H. Dodd, Military Relief, Dr. T. White. Membership, Mary Eleanor Cohanour, Work Room Committee, Mrs. C. A. Warren, Canteen Committee, Mrs. M. A. DeLashmut, and for the finance committee, E. F. Thompson.

W. A. Buttler was an Oatman visitor to Kingman this week.